

## A new name and a new look:



## Celebrating our past by embracing our future

To help mark 30 successful years of helping immigrants settle into their new lives in Calgary, the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society decided the best way to celebrate the past is to embrace the future!

Exciting things are happening in Calgary and in Alberta, and we want to ensure our organization is well-positioned to help immigrants thrive personally and professionally in this prosperous environment.

As a result, we are pleased to announce that the CIAS Board has approved a new name and a new visual identity for the organization to be introduced as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations.

Starting this fall, the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society will evolve to be known as *“Immigrant Services Calgary (operated by the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society)”*.

This new name is a clear reflection of what we do—putting immigrants first, and providing a range of “Services” to help them settle into their new lives and community. Based on feedback from some of our clients and partners, the shorter name is also more memorable, and will help us raise our profile.

## Immigrant



## Services Calgary


To coincide with this name change, we are also introducing a new visual identity, and some new information materials to better explain our services and reach out to clients and stakeholders.

Our new logo, above, also updates our look and provides us with a more compelling image to help us brand our organization.

Designed by world-renowned graphic designer *Wei Yew*, an immigrant from Singapore, the new logo builds from the highly recognizable symbol of Canada—the red maple leaf—and adds the metaphor of three leaves representing an immigrant’s new life and growth in Canada. The three leaves also represent the immigrant (our client), Immigrant Services Calgary

(our organization), and the community (our stakeholders and partners), all connected—growing and working together.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter in our history, we’d like to take this opportunity to thank the many people and organizations who have supported us over the past 30 years, and more importantly, helped make it possible for people to start new lives in Calgary and Canada.

Your on-going enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to helping immigrants and serving the community is what this organization is truly about—our new name and identity will just help ensure people know about it! 

## From the CEO

# Welcome to I-Connections!

While this is far from the first newsletter in our 30-year history, this issue is certainly a noteworthy one.

As you will read in our main story in this newsletter, the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society (CIAS) is marking a significant milestone this fall with the introduction of a new name and a new look.

Just as birthdays and anniversaries offer each of us the opportunity to take time to take stock of our lives, we felt our 30th anniversary was a great opportunity to not just appreciate how far we have come, but more importantly dream and envision where we want to go in the future.

We are very proud of everything we do every day to help immigrants fulfill their dreams of a successful new life in Calgary and in Canada, and in fact, in the past three

decades, have helped over 250,000 people do just that.

Over several months, we have had many conversations with our clients, supporters, volunteers and staff about our organization. In almost every one of those conversations, we heard we are doing wonderful things, but more people need to know about us. We also heard that as individuals and as an organization, we are known for how much we care as much as we are known for how we can help.

As a result, our wish, and our gift, to ourselves to help celebrate our anniversary is to raise our profile in the community to ensure we can help as many people as possible.

Starting this fall, as we transition to become Immigrant Services Calgary (operated by the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society),



▲ Haddasah Ksienski, CEO CIAS

we are also making a commitment to enhance our presence in the community, and to better communicate what we do, and how we do it, to our clients, our supporters and the community.

While this entails a number of exciting new initiatives, our future will focus on three themes about who we are and what we represent—Caring, Community, and Connection.

*I-Connections* is about connecting all of our clients, partners, volunteers and supporters with each other—just like the leaves in our new logo. It is about keeping you informed about what we are doing and how your involvement makes a difference. It is about the remarkable people we are here to serve, many of whom have overcome overwhelming challenges to make a new life for themselves or their families and Calgary. In other words, it is about how one person, or one organization, can make a difference.

I am extremely proud to be a part of this organization—especially now. Change is never easy, but I am pleased to say everyone is embracing this new chapter in our history with great enthusiasm. As a result, I am confident the next 30 years of our history will be equally, or perhaps even more, successful as the past 30 years. 🍁

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "H. Ksienski".

## Immigrants of Distinction Awards Adds New Award

**Do you know** an organization that has made diversity and inclusion a priority in their workplace and needs to be recognized?

This year the Immigrants of Distinction Awards will present two awards in the Diversity category—one to a business, and an additional award to a governmental or non-profit organization.

“The Diversity Award was conceived as an encouragement to business and other organizations to actively promote and practice diversity in the workplace,” said Peter Wong Q.C. and Chair of the awards. “We feel that the recipients of the Diversity Award set an example to other businesses and organizations that diversity brings tangible social and economic benefits.”

The Immigrants of Distinction Awards is an annual event that raises awareness of the contributions that immigrants have made to our society.

If you know an immigrant who has made great contributions in the areas of Arts & Culture, Business, Community Service or as a Professional, consider nominating them. All finalists are invited to attend the Awards Presentations at the Gala event in March 2008.

Nominations for all categories for the 2008 Immigrants of Distinction Awards are now open and applications will be accepted until November 30, 2007.

Please visit our website at [www.calgaryimmigrantaid.ca](http://www.calgaryimmigrantaid.ca) or phone Tracy Thomson at 538-8352 for details. 🍁



▲ Richard Gotfried, Ald. Ric McIver, Hadassah, MLA Dave Rodney, Tyler Charkie at the Portugal Night of the 2007 GlobalFest International Fireworks Competition



▲ Ukrainian Dance performance at the Cultural Pavilions of GlobalFest



▲ Fireworks display during the Portugal Night of the 2007 GlobalFest International Fireworks Competition

## CIAS goes global!

In August, the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society (CIAS) was proud to participate in GlobalFest—an annual Calgary celebration of a “World of Difference” designed to give the city an affordable and accessible multi-faceted cultural experience.

This year, CIAS partnered with GlobalFest and the Glenbow Museum to present the first annual Human Rights Forum from August 13–17 as part of annual event. The theme of the lecture series was “Ending Racism and Discrimination: Building Inclusive Communities and Cross Cultural Respects”, and included a keynote address from Stephen Lewis, CC, former UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

In addition to the lecture series, CIAS and TRICO Homes hosted a VIP event on August 21 during the Portugal night of the International Fireworks Competition to help raise funds to benefit Employment Programs at CIAS.

CIAS also set up an informational booth amongst the international pavilions at the Penbrooke Meadows location from August 16 to 19 in an effort to outreach to those who could benefit from CIAS services.

Thanks to the contribution of both time and enthusiasm for a number of CIAS staff and volunteers, this new partnership with GlobalFest was a great success. 🍁

## In the next Issue:

In the summer of 1976, a handful of enthusiastic Albertans formed a committee to discuss the likelihood of establishing an agency that would provide services for immigrants. At that time, no such agency existed to serve the needs of newcomers. More than 30 years have passed, and the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society (CIAS) has flourished, successfully delivering a wide range of services to meet the various needs of our immigrants.

What was the motivation behind the mission of making a difference in the lives of immigrants? What were the challenges she confronted? What are the trends she observed throughout all these years on immigrant issues?

In our next issue of *I-Connections*, we'll have an inside story with one of our agency founding members, Lillian Jones. 🍁

▼ Lillian Jones, founding member of the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society



## Congrats Nyal!

This summer Nyal Majock, 2007 Youth Scholarship Recipient, continued to amaze his supporters with his running talents. After several successful races this summer, Nyal ranks second in the youth category for Canada in the 3,000 meters by Athletics Canada.

This year Nyal is in his last year of High School and planning for a future that will include running. His hopes of joining the Canadian National Team are on hold until he receives his Canadian Citizenship. We wish Nyal continued success in his running career!

Nominations for the 2008 Youth Scholarships are now open, please visit our website at [www.calgaryimmigrantaid.ca](http://www.calgaryimmigrantaid.ca) or call Tracy at 538-8352 for more information. 🍁

▼ Nyal Majock, well ahead of the field, wins IB 3,000 meters.



Photo: John Roberts, moonandphoto.ca

# What's new?

## Citizenship classes

If you would like to become a Canadian citizen, then it's your chance to join our next preparation course! Classes take place every Saturday, Sept. 15 – Oct. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call Claudia at 265-1120 to register. Fee: \$10

## Upcoming CELBAN test

Immigrant Language and Vocational Assessment Referral Centre (ILVARC) is the official administration site in Calgary for the Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN). The next CELBAN test will be taken on November 28. Contact Daniel at 265-1120 ext 362, [daniell@calgaryimmigrantaid.ca](mailto:daniell@calgaryimmigrantaid.ca) or Rhea at 265-1120 ext. 274, [rheac@calgaryimmigrantaid.ca](mailto:rheac@calgaryimmigrantaid.ca) Details can be also found online at [www.celban.org](http://www.celban.org)

## Youth Industry Internship Program (YIIP)

YIIP continues helping immigrant youth to obtain employment in their chosen career fields. Application deadline: Oct. 5, 2007. Workshops to start Oct. 15. For more information, contact Arpana at 265-6093, ext 492 or Mercedes at 538-8373.

## Healthy Start Calgary Program (HSC)

If you are pregnant or have a child under one year of age, come and join us! You will receive useful information on how to take care of yourself during your pregnancy and your baby when the time comes. Milk coupons and bus tickets will be provided. Session groups for pregnant moms start Sept. 10 and for moms with babies Sept. 14. Call Puneet at 538-8375 or Mercedes at 265-6093 ext 292 to register.

## Children & Parent Program

The Mosaic Centre offers a wide variety of programs for families with children age 0–6 years. If you would like to make new friends, learn more about community resources and parenting or enjoy play time with your child, join our Drop-In Program on Monday mornings from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 17. We also have a licensed pre-school program for children aged 3-5, and Family Literacy and Pre-School programs in the NE area. For more information, give us a call at 265-6093.

## 2008 Immigrants of Distinction Awards

The Calgary Immigrant Aid Society (CIAS) announces the 'Call for Nominations' for the *2008 Immigrants of Distinction Awards*. Individual nominations are being accepted in the categories of Arts & Culture, Business, Community Service, and Distinguished Professional.

This year the Immigrants of Distinction Awards will present two awards in the Diversity category—one to a business, and an additional award to a governmental or non-profit organization.

The Youth Scholarships are awarded to an immigrant youth aged 14-24, who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in one or more of the following areas: Academics, Arts, Community and Volunteer Activities or Sports.

If you would like to nominate someone, check our website at [www.calgaryimmigrantaid.ca](http://www.calgaryimmigrantaid.ca) or call Tracy at 538-8352 for more information. 🍁

# Thank You

## Funders:



We would like to thank the following 2007 Immigrants of Distinction Awards Sponsors:

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*All opinions expressed in I-Connections are those of the individual authors.*

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